

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ONY-00 /004 W

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P 051549Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7229

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12378

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. REF YOUR QUESTION ON SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS (STATE 191124)
WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH SOME ADDITIONAL
IMBALANCE AS LONG AS OUR PRESS CAN OPERATE "NORMALLY" AND
INCREASE THE SIZE OF U.S. STAFFS HERE AS DESIRED. OUR
CONCERN IS PRIMARILY TO HAVE LEVERAGE WHICH CAN BE APPLIED
WHEN OUR CORRESPONDENTS ARE THREATENED OR WHEN ACCREDITATION
PROBLEMS ARISE. IF WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH A SPECIFIC INCIDENT,
WE CAN ALWAYS DELAY ANY REPLY - JUST AS WE DID WITH SUCH
CASES AS OREKHOV TO SAN FRANCISCO. OPENING NEW BUREAUS, SUCH
AS LITGAZ, IS ANOTHER MATTER AND SHOULD BE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE
DELIBERATION SINCE WE KNOW OF NO NEW APPLICANTS TO COME HERE.
CONSIDERING THE CONTINUING BARRAGE FROM LITGAZ, IT
WOULD BE NICE AT THIS POINT IF WE COULD HOLD BOROVIK'S
APPLICATION. IN SUM, THE GROWING IMBALANCE IS SOMETHING
YOU AND OTHER U.S. AGENCIES WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH ON A
DAILY BASIS - MORE "CORRESPONDENTS" WILL MAKE MORE "NEWS"
AND CAUSE MORE TROUBLE. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, THE "QUID
PRO QUO" DENIAL OR DELAY IS STILL NECESSARY TO ASSURE SOME
RESPECT FOR OUR CORRESPONDENTS HERE.

2. AS FOR TASS SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE (STATE 193356), WE
STRONGLY CONCUR WITH YOUR PROPOSED COMMENTS TO BEATON.
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IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE TO ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO GET

OUT AHEAD ON THIS.

3. AFTER INFORMAL COMPLAINTS BY GSO THE EMBASSY'S VOLTAGE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED. WE ARE NOT RECEIVING APPROXIMATELY 225 VOLTS.

4. WE WILL BE POUCHING DIRECTLY TO YOU SATURDAY A LIST OF EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AND UPDATED HOUSING LIST. WE DO NOT HAVE THE TWO SETS OF INFORMATION IN AUTOMATED FORM BUT BY NEXT WEEK WE WILL PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE SINGLE LIST WITH THE INFORMATION YOU ASKED FOR. STOESSEL

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